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Letter dated 2 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to forward herewith a press release dated 30 March 2001 from the Government of Sierra Leone on the visit of Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, to the Republic of Guinea (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ibrahim M. **Kamara**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 2 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Press release on the visit of His Excellency Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the Republic of Guinea

30 March 2001

In the framework of the periodic consultations between the Head of State of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the President of the Republic of Guinea, His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah paid a one-day working and friendly visit to Conakry on 30 March 2001.

His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah was accompanied by an important government delegation. During the visit, the two heads of State reviewed the security situation in the subregion in general, and the States members of the Mano River Union in particular.

With regard to bilateral relations, the heads of State committed themselves to employing every effort to strengthen them in the interest of the peoples of Sierra Leone and Guinea who have a common destiny. To that effect, the two heads of State expressed concern regarding the deterioration of the security situation resulting from the escalation of aggression along the common borders. In that framework, they condemned unequivocally this barbaric aggression which jeopardizes the peace, security and stability of the subregion and undermines the development integration objectives of the Mano River Union member States.

The two heads of State condemned unequivocally the wanton loss of lives and property as well as the massive displacement of population caused by these attacks. They also condemned the barbaric acts of the RUF supported by the Government of Liberia against the territory of Guinea. The two heads of State demanded an immediate stop to these incursions into Guinean territory.

The two heads of State agreed on the need to set up, as soon as possible, a mechanism that could allow the resolution of this grave situation. The two heads of State deplored the decision of the Government of Liberia to declare persona non grata the ambassadors of Sierra Leone and Guinea accredited to Liberia. This negative decision is likely to undermine the immense effort undertaken by ECOWAS and the international community for the restoration of a climate of confidence favourable to the establishment of lasting peace. This is indispensable for the effectiveness of the activities of the Mano River Union.

The two heads of State recognized the necessity of implementing the important provisions, principles, values and protocols of the Mano River Union and declared the willingness of the two countries to continue to promote their cooperation until such time as the third member, Liberia, will respect the principles which govern the organization.

With regard to sanctions against Liberia, the two heads of State expressed their disquiet on the moratorium accorded for the implementation of these sanctions. To that effect, the two heads of State made an urgent appeal to the Security Council for

the immediate implementation of the sanctions, considering the fact that President Charles Taylor is not respecting this important resolution adopted by the Security Council as well as other important resolutions adopted by OAU and ECOWAS.

The two heads of State demanded from the international community support for the two States in their fight to safeguard their sovereignty and territorial integrity. They also requested an appropriate assistance to strengthen and consolidate the defence capacity of their respective armies to enable them to face these serious acts of aggression from the RUF rebels and their allies. To that effect, at the subregional level, the two heads of State deplored the persistence of conflicts in the subregion and decided to do everything possible to put an end to these conflicts.

The two heads of State further agreed that their respective national armies should now take ownership of the security of their common borders.

The two heads of State reaffirmed their adherence to the principles of the United Nations, OAU, ECOWAS and the Mano River Union.

The two heads of State agreed to meet regularly in order to harmonize their positions and their efforts for the restoration of lasting peace in the subregion.

President Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah expressed his gratitude to his friend and brother, President Lansana Conte, for the generous hospitality accorded to Sierra Leonean refugees in Guinea. He also declared his satisfaction for the warm and brotherly welcome he always enjoyed from the Government and people of Guinea.

President Lansana Conte expressed the thanks of the Government and people of the Republic of Guinea to President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah for the visit, which he considered very important.